

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY BERN
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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TAGS: PEPR, MASS, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TO GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: STATE 087658

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1. IN A WELL-ATTENDED (13 MAJORITY MEMBERS, 9 MINORITY)
HEARING BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (HIRC)
ON APRIL 19, TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROPOSALS WAS HEARD FROM SENATORS
EAGLETON AND SARBANES, CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS, AND PROFESSOR
C.G. ALEXANDRIDES OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY. TESTIFYING
IN SUPPORT WERE GEN. LYMAN LEMNITZER, FORMER NATO SUPREME

ALLIED COMMANDER IN EUROPE AND FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND DR. MICHAEL SZAZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON.

2. IN BRIEF STATEMENTS, THE THREE CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS REITERATED THE POSITIONS OUTLINED IN THEIR APRIL 5 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL), I.E. THAT ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED POLICY CHANGE WOULD UNDERMINE THE RULE OF LAW IN THE EXECUTION OF US FOREIGN POLICY, WOULD HARM PROSPECTS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE PRESIDENT'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE THAT NORMALIZATION OF ARMS SALES TO TURKEY WOULD BE LINKED TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. IN ADDITION, SENA-

TOR SARBANES REJECTED THE ARGUMENT THAT NORMALIZATION OF THE US-TURKEY ARMS RELATIONSHIP IS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK BY EMPHASIZING THAT TURKISH AGGRESSION ON CYPRUS WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH NATO PURPOSES.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM CONGRESSMAN BROOMFIELD (WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY HIS COMMENT HE DID NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED) ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO FORCE TURKEY TO DO SOMETHING FURTHER ON CYPRUS, SARBANES REPLIED THAT TURKEY SHOULD BE CALLED ON TO REDRESS ITS AGGRESSION AND ARRIVE AT A SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT A FULL GENUINE EFFORT HAD NEVER BEEN MADE TO ENFORCE THE EMBARGO NOTING "CONTRARY SIGNALS" WHICH HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GOT, INCLUDING USE OF NAMSA TO CIRCUMVENT THE RESTRICTIONS, STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR SPIERS AND GENERAL HAIG, DEPARTMENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS, AND US REP STATEMENTS WHEN THE UNGA IN 1977 DISCUSSED CYPRUS, ETC.

4. IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN ON WHAT CYPRUS PROPOSALS BY TURKISH SIDE WOULD BE CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT, BRADEMAS SAID THAT MERE TABLING OF PROPOSALS--SUCH AS THE "TRANSPARENTLY COSMETIC" PROPOSALS GIVEN THE UNSYG ON FEB. 13 WERE NOT ENOUGH. EAGLETON LISTED THREE ACTIONS TURKS COULD TAKE ON CYPRUS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS: A) OPEN NICOSIA AIRPORT, B) OPEN THE NICOSIA-FAMAGUSTA ROAD, AND C) ALLOW GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES TO RETURN TO NEW FAMAGUSTA.

5. SOLARZ SAID THAT BASED ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ECEVIT AND DENKTASH, HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS DID CONSTITUTE AN EMINENTLY REASONABLE BASIS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT IT WAS UNFAIR TO CALL THEM "COSMETIC".

6. IN ANSWERING QUESTION FROM CONGRESSMAN PEASE ON WHETHER

THE ARMS EMBARGO SHOULD BE MADE PERMANENT IF IN TEN YEARS THERE STILL WERE NO PROGRESS TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, BRADEMÁS REFERRED TO VANCE'S JULY 1975 TESTIMONY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EMBARGO SHOULD LAST INDEFINITELY UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. IN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PARALLEL BETWEEN THE 1974 TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS AND THE RECENT ISRAELI ACTION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, SARBANES SAID THE TWO CASES WOULD BE COMPARABLE ONLY IF ISRAEL HAD OCCUPIED 40 PERCENT OF LEBANESE TERRITORY. REPLYING TO BRADEMÁS' COMMENT THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT PUT THE TWO CASES ON A PAR, FINDLEY SAID THAT THE US

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HAD BEEN VERY SELECTIVE IN ITS ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND ASKED RHETORICALLY IF VIOLATION OF THE LAW HAD TO REACH A CERTAIN INTENSITY IN ORDER TO WARRANT A PENALTY.

8. GEN. LEMNITZER TESTIFIED THAT TURKEY WAS OF IMMENSE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND THAT ARMS EMBARGO HAD CREATED PROBLEM AFTER PROBLEM: IT HAD HARDENED THE TURKISH NEGOTIATING POSITION ON CYPRUS AND HAD RESULTED IN AN IMPASSE ON THE VERY ISSUES IT HAD BEEN INTENDED TO RESOLVE, HAD SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BOTH TURKISH MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND NATO STRENGTH IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AND HAD NOT INDUCED GREECE TO RETURN TO NATO NOR TO WORK FOR IMPROVEMENT IN US-GREEK RELATIONS. VANCE

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